GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2193
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2005
INDIA-MALAYASIA CO-OPERATION IN OIL & GAS SECTOR
Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Patil Shri Anna Saheb M.K.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia propose to cooperate in Oil and Natural Gas Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of times dialogue held in this regard and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. During call on the Prime Minister of Malaysia by Minister (PNG) in December, 2004 and, subsequently, during the bilateral meeting between the Minister (PNG) and the Minister in Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia, held on the sidelines of the first Round Table of Asian Oil Ministers in January, 2005, both parties agreed to strengthen the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Indian Oil and Petronas, Malaysia have signed a Memorandum of Collaboration for mutual cooperation in the areas covering, interalia, crude oil exploration and production, refining, trading, marketing and retailing of products, Research & Development, Training, Consultancy.

A Roadshow to promote the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy is being held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21-22 March, 2005 where a number of Exploration & Production (E&P) companies in and around Malaysia are likely to participate.

(c): In all, ten Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings have taken place during 1996-2003. Pursuant to the signing of the MOC between Indian Oil and Petronas a joint venture company under the name "IndianOil Petronas Limited" was floated for the import, storage and distribution of LPG at Haldia. This facility is presently under operation.